AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A data area managing method for an information recording medium, the method is used in an information processor that manages data stored in an information recording area in the information recording medium as a file, wherein

when said information processor accesses [[to]] area management information that manages a free area state and link state of the information recording area in said information recording medium,

access size is changed according to processing ~~content in~~ executed by said information processor.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The data area managing method according to claim 1, wherein [[a]] the processing ~~content in~~ executed by said information processor comprises:

a free area retrieval processing for retrieving [[an]] a free area from said area management information; and

a link destination acquisition processing for acquiring a destination to be linked from said area management information.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The data area managing method according to claim 2, wherein as the access size to said area management information,

when ~~the processing content in~~ said information processor [[is]] <u>executes</u> said free area retrieval processing, a first access size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium or a size less than the <u>first access</u> size is used, and

when ~~the processing content in~~ said information processor [[is]] <u>executes</u> said link destination acquisition processing, a second access size that is an access unit of said information recording medium is used.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The data area managing method according to claim 3, wherein as the access size to said area management information [[in]] <u>at</u> said free area retrieval processing,

~~when access to a location other than a head or end of said area management information is performed,~~ <u>said information processor uses</u> a physical management block size determined from

physical characteristics of said information recording medium ~~is~~ ~~used~~ when access to a location other than a head or end of said area management information is performed, and

~~when access to the head or end of said area management~~ ~~information is performed,~~ said information processor uses a size equal to or less than said physical management block size ~~is used~~ when access to the head or end of said area management information is performed.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The data area managing method according to claim 4, wherein ~~as the access size in accessing to~~ when said information processor accesses the head or end of said area management information ~~is performed~~, the access size is a size of said area management information in the physical management block determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium ~~is used~~.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The data area managing method according to claim 1, wherein two caches each having a different management block size are provided as area management information caches in said information processor, and by alternatively using said two caches for ~~each~~ different purposes, said access size is

changed according to the processing ~~content in~~ executed by said

information processor.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The data area managing method

according to claim 6, wherein [[a]] the processing ~~content in~~

executed by said information processor comprises:

a free area retrieval processing for retrieving [[an]] a

free area from said area management information; and

a link destination acquisition processing for

acquiring a ~~destination to be~~ linked destination from said area

management information.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The data area managing method

according to claim 7, wherein as an alternative use of said two

area management information caches,

when ~~the processing content in~~ said information processor

[[is]] executes said free area retrieval processing, ~~a physical~~

~~management block size determined from physical characteristics of~~

~~said information recording medium or~~ said information processor

uses a first area management information cache having a ~~size less~~

~~than the size is used~~ physical management block size determined

from physical characteristics of said information recording

medium or less, and

when ~~the processing content in~~ said information processor
[[is]] executes said link destination acquisition processing,
said information processor uses a second area management
information cache as an access unit of said information recording
medium ~~is used~~.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The data area managing method
according to claim 8, wherein as [[the]] an access size to said
area management information ~~which uses~~ in a case where said first
area management information cache is used,

when access to a location other than a head or end of said
area management information is performed, said information
processor uses a physical management block size determined from
physical characteristics of said information recording medium ~~is~~
~~used~~, and

when access to the head or end of said area management
information is performed, said information processor uses a size
equal to or less than said physical management block size ~~is~~
~~used~~.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The data area managing method
according to claim 9, wherein when ~~access to~~ said information
processor accesses the head or end of the area management

information is performed, by using said first area management

information cache,

the access size is a size of said area management

information in the physical management block determined from

physical characteristics of said information recording medium.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The data area managing method

according to claim 8, wherein said second area management

information cache is used only for an exclusive processing [[of]]

for reading, and

said first area management information cache is used when

[[the]] information stored in said area management information is

changed.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): An information processor

which accesses [[to]] an information recording medium managing

that manages data stored in an information recording area by a

file system comprising:

a FAT cache for reading and storing area management

information which manages a free state and link state of said

information recording area from said information recording

medium;

a volatile memory for holding [[,]] data including: a start
address of each block, location of the area management
information stored in each block on said information recording
medium, size of each block, and presence or absence of update, as
FAT cache management information for managing said FAT cache by
dividing said FAT cache into a plurality of blocks;

a FAT cache controller for referring to and updating said
FAT cache management information and controlling a read and
change of said area management information to said FAT cache; and

a file system controller for accessing [[to]] the area
management information through said FAT cache controller and
storing data in the information recording medium as a file.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The information processor
according to claim 12, wherein said FAT cache has ~~each of one or
more blocks of two types of blocks of a block having the first
access size~~ at least one block having a first access size and at
least one block having a second access size; and ~~a block having
the second access size,~~ said first access size is a physical
management block size determined from physical characteristics of
said information recording medium and said second access size is
an access unit of said information recording medium.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The information processor
according to claim 13, wherein said FAT cache controller reads
data having the physical management block size determined from
physical characteristics of said information recording medium
from the information recording medium and ~~holds them~~ retains the
read data to a block having the ~~size of the~~ first access size~~, a~~
~~size of the data is the physical management block size determined~~
~~from physical characteristics of said information recording~~
~~medium,~~ when holding the area management information stored in a
location of other than a head or end of said area management
information [[,]] ; and

said FAT cache controller reads data having a size equal to
or less than said physical management block size from the
information recording medium and ~~holds them, the size of the data~~
~~is equal to or less than said physical management block size~~
retains the read data, when holding the area management
information stored in a location of the head or end of said area
management information.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The information processor
according to claim 13, wherein said file system controller
accesses [[to:]] a block having the first access size included in
said FAT cache through said FAT cache controller when a free area

retrieval processing for retrieving [[an]] a free area from said

area management information is performed, and accesses a block

having the second access size included in said FAT cache through

said FAT cache controller when a link destination acquisition

processing for acquiring a ~~destination to be~~ linked destination

from said area management information is performed.